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IN THE CLAIMS

1-9 (CANCELED)

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A post-operative chest support for a patient comprising:

a chest encircling band of stretchable material of constant width and uniformly stretchable along the circumference of the band, wherein the band has a base tension while worn by the patient;

a tensioning means located on a front surface of the band that is actuatable by the patient to vary the tension of the band between the base tension and another tension, such that the band automatically returns to the base tension when the patient releases the tensioning means; and

wherein a first securing system fixes the support about a patient's chest at the base tension, and the tensioning means comprises at least a pair of handles at a base tension position that can move towards each other when pushed to adjust tension and be pulled away from each other to adjust tension, the handles returning to the base tension position when pushing and/or pulling of the handles is stopped; and

wherein the at least a pair of handles is located within pockets on the front of the vest.

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CANCELED)

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A support according to claim 10 wherein the tensioning means is removeably attached to the band.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CANCELED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The support of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 10 where the at least a pair of handles is hidden from view by the pockets when at the base tension position.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (CANCELED)